

EXERCISE P1/P2-3 ♦ The comma

To read about this topic, see sections P1 and P2 in *A Writer’s Reference*, Seventh Edition.

A

Add commas where they are needed around nonrestrictive elements. If a sentence is correct, mark it “OK.” Example:

Jim Thorpe’s Olympic medals, which he won in 1912 but had to forfeit, were for the pentathlon and the decathlon. [Thorpe won Olympic medals only in 1912.]

1. The Carlisle students who needed summer jobs often played baseball for Carolina teams. [Not all Carlisle students needed summer jobs.]
2. The players who were willing to lie used false names when they played for little-known teams; Jim did not. [Only some of the players were willing to lie.]
3. Those who had received money for playing their sport were disqualified because they were no longer “amateurs.” [Only some received money.]
4. The five-sport event which is called the pentathlon is difficult. [There is only one five-sport event.]
5. The decathlon which is a ten-sport event is considered the most difficult of all Olympic events. [There is only one ten-sport event.]

B

Add commas as necessary in the following sentences. Example:

In Stockholm, Sweden’s King Gustav presented the 1912 Olympic winners with their gold medals; in addition, he spoke briefly to some of them.

6. As King Gustav presented Jim Thorpe’s 1912 Olympic medal, he said to Jim “Sir you are the greatest athlete in the world.”
7. In January 1913 however a newspaper reported that Jim had been paid for playing for the Carolina baseball teams.
8. When the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) asked Jim said he had been paid.
9. Stating that he had not known he was doing wrong, Jim insisted that he had acted no worse than athletes who used false names.
10. After Jim presented his case, the AAU made its ruling; specifically it ruled that Jim had not been an amateur at the time of his participation in the Olympics.

EXERCISE P1/P2-4 ♦ The comma

To read about this topic, see sections P1 and P2 in *A Writer’s Reference*, Seventh Edition.

Edit the following paragraphs to correct the use of commas. The first revision has been done for you. You should add ten more commas.

When the Amateur Athletic Union ruled that 1912 Olympic winner Jim Thorpe had not been an amateur at the time he won his medals, several consequences followed. Once the ruling was formally stated, Jim Thorpe’s name was erased from the Olympic records. In addition he had to return his medals. Friends wanted him to fight the AAU ruling but he was too proud to do so.

During the next sixteen years that Jim played football was quite different from what it is today. Players then had no league, no formal schedule, no helmet requirements and often no salaries. Then representatives of eight concerned teams met to form a league. The organization they formed which was called the American Professional Football Association later became the National Football League; Jim Thorpe was its first president.

Jim’s playing declined with the years until on November 30, 1929 an Associated Press story described him as “a mere shadow of his former self.” No longer able to play sports Thorpe had to dig ditches during the Depression years. When the 1932 Olympics were held in Los Angeles California he could not afford to buy a ticket.